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REPORT
OF
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 5th November 1898.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	BENGALI.	CALCUTTA.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	25,000		
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	15,000		
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto ...	800		
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 4,000		
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,600		
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000		
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000		
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000		
9	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
	<i>Daily.</i>				
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Calcutta ...	200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto ...	1,000		
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000		
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	200		
	HINDI.				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Calcutta ...	400		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	6,500		
	<i>Daily.</i>				
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	
	PERSIAN.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	
2	"Mefta-hur-safar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Calcutta ...	320		
2	"General and Gauharisafi" ...	Ditto ...	330		
	<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
1	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	
	BENGALI.	BURDWAN DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	.....	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	572		
2	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	240		
3	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	400		
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350		
5	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	475		
	BENGALI.	PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	655		
2	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ..	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400		
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600		
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400		
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243		This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Kangal" ...	Cooch Behar ...	.....	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180		
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	.....	
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	755		
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	300		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900		
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400		
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500		
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500		
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	450		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120	12th and 19th October. 1898.	
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....	16th October 1898.	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	340	August, 2nd fortnight, and September, 1st fortnight, 1898.	

ASSAM PAPERS.

The *Silchar* for the second fortnight of August complains of not being supplied with a copy of the *Assam Gazette*. The supply was discontinued when the paper ceased to be published some four or five years ago. But though the paper has been revived about a year and-a-half and has, during that period, been supplied with all Government reports, &c., the supply of the *Gazette* has not been renewed. It does not matter the *Silchar* much whether it is supplied with the *Gazette* or not, still it is hoped that Mr. Cotton will not grudge it a copy of the publication.

Non-supply of the *Assam Gazette* to the *Silchar*.

SILCHAR,
2nd fortnight
of Aug. 1898.

2. The same paper writes as follows:—

In compliance with the notification in the *Assam Gazette* asking the public to send in their objections, if any, against the proposed enhancement of rent in Cachar, and relying on the kindness and sense of justice of the present Chief Commissioner, we shall say a word or two about the new settlement. In the time of the old Rajas no rent was taken for *bastu* land, which was first assessed to the land revenue in the settlement made by Babu Golak Chandra Rai Bahadur. In the resettlement made by Mr. Steuart, the rent was increased at the rate of Rs. 3-8. In the last settlement, which was made for 15 years, the rent was increased to Rs. 8-4, and now it is proposed to enhance it again. The rent of cultivable land will also be increased at a similar rate. Lands first assessed as lands of the fourth class have, in course of time, been raised by the raiyats' own exertions to first-class lands, and although the raiyats ought to get the full benefit of the improvement effected by them, Government is bent on depriving them of their dues. The raiyats have no alternative but to quietly submit to the cruel treatment which will be meted out to them. Fifteen years ago the rent was increased at one leap from Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 8-4, and will it not be ruinous to the raiyats to effect a further enhancement? In the last settlement rents were increased 37 per cent. The Government of India was not very willing to sanction so large an increase. And now after only fifteen years, an enhancement of rent, at the rate of 48 per cent., has been proposed! In the Assam Valley, where the soil is much more fertile than in Cachar, the raiyats were dissatisfied with an enhancement of 30 per cent., and Mr. Anderson had to take the help of the police in putting down their opposition. In the Jaintia pargana of Sylhet rents were increased 33 per cent.; but the raiyats having refused to execute kabuliyats at such a high rate of rent, the rate of enhancement was reduced. The annexed table will show how the Cachar *mirasdars* will fare after the settlement which is in progress:—

Kind of land.	Class.	Present rate of rent.	Proposed rate of rent.	Increase.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bastu	First	As. p. 9 1 per bigha.	As. 13 per bigha.	43	a. Sadar.
Paddy	Do.	7 1 "	12 } 11 } "	53 } 40 }	b. Hailakandi.
Uncultivated	Do.	1 anna 1 pie per bigha.	2 "	100	c. Katigara.

3. The *Silchar* for the first fortnight of September has the following:—

Preparation of text-books by Government.

The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, has proposed to publish text-books in literature for the vernacular examinations, that is to say, he has

SILCHAR,
1st fortnight of
Sept. 1898.

proposed to purchase from authors essays on subjects relating to agriculture, natural science, geology, zoology, &c., and make up therewith text-books which will be published on Government's account. The native press have unanimously condemned the proposal as calculated to deprive Bengali authors of their bread and to prejudicially affect Bengali literature, because in the absence of any prospect of large profits, no Bengali author will take pains to write good books. This is true. But it is not, on the other hand, just and proper to allow an author to enjoy the profits of a book all his life. The anomaly, moreover, which now prevails in connection with the selection of text-books is quite astonishing. A good book has no chance of being selected in consideration of its quality if it has not influential men to speak for it. A few Inspectors, Joint-Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors, and Deputy Inspectors and their relatives, numbering in all not more than a score of men, have literally become millionaires by the sale of their books, whilst authors who have written really good books have lived to see their productions eaten up by worms without any human being condescending to touch them. The matter has been agitated in newspapers, but without effect. It will, therefore, be a step in the right direction if Government takes the publication of text-books into its own hands; and if the profit made by the Government in this business is spent for educational purposes, the scheme, though depriving a handful of authors of their princely incomes, will benefit the country at large at a time when the authorities, as in Chittagong, are finding it necessary to curtail educational expenditure. The proposal is a good one, and has the writer's approval.

4. The same paper has the following :—

Material and intellectual condition of Cachar.

The district of Cachar is in a very backward condition, both materially and intellectually. There are in it only one zamindar whose income approaches ten thousand a year and half-a-dozen more whose incomes average two to three thousand a year. There are no pleaders and the number of mukhtars is only four. Besides these, Cachar boasts of only nine clerks on salaries of Rs. 15 to Rs. 50 a month and a number of pathsala gurus. Cachar is a temporarily-settled district, and repeated enhancement of rent has made its condition extremely miserable. It is very unfortunate for its residents that Government has done nothing to improve their condition. In the matter of education, the people's means hardly allow them to go further than the Middle Vernacular and Middle English standards. Boys who get scholarships at those examinations enter Entrance schools, but for want of means can scarcely proceed further than the second or the third class.

It behoves the Assam Government to take the following measures with a view to ameliorate the condition of the people of Cachar :—

(1) The creation of two special scholarships, to be awarded on the result of the Middle Vernacular, and of two more to be awarded on the result of the Middle English Examination.

(2) The admission into Government offices as apprentices of young men who have passed the Middle English Examination.

(3) The reservation of all posts of writer-constables for Assamese candidates who have passed either the Middle Vernacular or the Middle English Examination.

(4) The settlement of Cachar at the existing rates of rent for a long period, say forty years.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 5th November 1898.

SILCHAR,
1st fortnight
of Sept. 1898.